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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims a follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An XML-based tag for a visual cue associated to a visual element of an XML-based multimedia presentation, ~~comprising:~~ wherein the multimedia presentation is structured for display on a display surface of a computer, wherein the XML-based tag comprises:

an element attribute that defines visual representation of the visual cue;

an element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

an element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue,

wherein the defined temporal and spatial characteristics of the visual cue are relative to temporal and spatial characteristics of the associated visual element, and

wherein the computer superimposes the visual cue's display ~~is superimposed~~ over the associated visual element in the multimedia presentation with a visual appearance based on the defined visual representation of the visual cue, during a period of time based on the defined temporal characteristics of the visual cue, and at a location over the associated visual element based on the defined spatial characteristics of the visual cue.

2. (Original) An XML-based tag, as defined in Claim 1, further wherein temporal characteristics include begin time, end time, and duration.

3. (Previously Presented) An XML-based tag, as defined in Claim 1, wherein visual representation includes color.

4. (Previously Presented) An XML-based tag, as defined in Claim 1, wherein visual representation includes shape.

5. (Original) An XML-based tag, as defined in Claim 1, wherein spatial characteristics include position.

6. (Original) An XML-based tag, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the XML-based tag for the visual cue is nested within an XML-based element that defines the associated visual element.

7. (Currently Amended) In an XML-based browser that displays synchronized multimedia presentations to a user, a method for processing an XML-based tag for a visual cue associated with a multimedia element, comprising:

storing information from the tag concerning the multimedia element to which the visual cue is associated, together with information from the tag concerning visual representation and spatial and temporal characteristics of the visual cue; and

in synchronization with display of the multimedia element, displaying the visual cue with the visual representation specified, and in the spatial and temporal relationships specified by the spatial and temporal characteristics,

wherein the defined temporal and spatial characteristics of the visual cue are relative to temporal and spatial characteristics of the associated visual element, and

wherein the visual cue's display is superimposed over the associated visual element in the multimedia presentation with a visual appearance based on the defined visual representation of the visual cue, during a period of time based on the defined temporal characteristics of the visual cue, and at a location over the associated visual element based on the defined spatial characteristics of the visual cue.

8. (Original) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, further wherein temporal characteristics include begin time, end time, and duration.

9. (Previously Presented) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein visual representation includes color.

10. (Previously Presented) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein visual representation includes shape.

11. (Original) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein spatial characteristics include position.

12. (Original) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the XML-based tag for the visual cue is nested within an XML-based element that defines the associated visual element.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing computer executable process steps to process an XML-based tag for a visual cue associated with a multimedia element, the process steps comprising:

a storing step to store information from the tag concerning the multimedia element to which the visual cue is associated, together with information from the tag concerning visual representation and spatial and temporal characteristics of the visual cue; and

in synchronization with display of the multimedia element, a displaying step to display the visual cue with the visual representation in the spatial and temporal relationships specified by the spatial and temporal characteristics,

wherein the defined temporal and spatial characteristics of the visual cue are relative to temporal and spatial characteristics of the associated visual element, and

wherein the visual cue's display is superimposed over the associated visual element in the multimedia presentation with a visual appearance based on the defined visual representation of the visual cue, during a period of time based on the defined temporal characteristics of the visual cue, and at a location over the associated visual element based on the defined spatial characteristics of the visual cue.

14. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein temporal characteristics include begin time, end time, and duration.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein visual representation includes color.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, whercin visual representation includes shape.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein spatial characteristics include position.

18. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the XML-based tag for the visual cue is nested within an XML-based element that defines the associated visual element.

19. (Previously Presented) An XML-based tag, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the temporal characteristic of the visual cue is based on the temporal characteristic of the visual element to which the visual cue is associated.

20. (Previously Presented) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the temporal characteristic of the visual cue is based on the temporal characteristic of the multimedia element to which the visual cue is associated.

21. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the temporal characteristic of the visual cue is based on the temporal characteristic of the multimedia element to which the visual cue is associated.